THE SPEECH OF Richard Langhorn Esq;

At his Execution *July* 14. 1679.

Being left in writing by him under his own hand.

IN regard I could not foresee whether I should be permitted to speak at my Death, so as to make a publick Declaration of my Innocency and Loyalty, as a Christian ought to do; considering likewise, that if it should be permitted unto me, it would be more advisable for me rather to prepare beforehand, and set down in writing the very words in which I should make my Declaration, than to trust my memory with them; to the end that the same may be well considered of, and digested by me, and that all mistakes might be prevented, as far as may be: I say, in regard of this, I have in the present Paper reduced what I have to declare, as to my Innocence and Loyalty. And 'tis in these following words.

I Do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of Almighty God, profess, testifie and declare, as followeth: That is to say,

1. That I do with my heart and soul, believe and own my most Gracious Soveraign Lord, the Kings Majesty, King *Charles* the Second, to be my true and lawful Soveraign, Prince and King, in the same sence and latitude, to all intents and purposes, as in the Oath commonly called, *The Oath of Allegiance*, His said Majesty is expressed to be King of this Realm of *England*.

2. That I do in my soul believe, That neither the Pope, nor any Prince, Potentate, or Forreign Authority, nor the People of *England*, nor any Authority out of this Kingdom, or within the same, hath or have any Right to dispossess His said Majesty of the Crown or Government of *England*, or to depose him therefrom, for any Cause or pretended Cause whatsoever, or to give licence to me, or to any other of His said Majesties Subjects whatsoever, to bear Arms against His said Majesty, or to take away his Life, or to do him any bodily harm, or to disturb the Government of this Kingdom, as the same is now established by Law, or to alter, or go about to alter the said Government, or the Religion now established in *England*, by any way of force.

3. That I neither am, nor ever was, at any time or times, guilty, so much as in my most secret thoughts, of any Treason, or misprision of Treason whatsoever.

4. That I did not in the Month of *November*, or at any other time or times whatsoever, say unto Mr. *Oates*, or unto any other person or persons whatsoever,

ever, in relation to my Sons in *Spain*, or either of them, or in relation to any other person or persons whatsoever, That if they did continue in the World, (as Secular Priests, or otherwise) they should suddenly have great Promotions in *England*, for that things would not last long in the posture wherein they then were; nor did I ever say any words to that or the like effect to any person or persons whatsoever.

5. That I did never in all my life-time write any Letter, or other thing whatsoever, unto, or receive any Letter or other thing, from Father *Le Cheese*, or any *French* Jesuit whatsoever, or from Father *Anderton*, or Cardinal *Barbarino*, or any other Cardinal; nor did I ever see any Letter, or the Copy of any Letter, or other Paper, or other thing, written or purporting to be written unto the said *Le Cheese*, or unto the said Father *Anderton*, or the said Cardinal *Barbarino*, by any person or persons whatsoever, other than the printed Letters, printed in the Narrative of the Trial of Mr. *Edward Coleman*, lately executed, which I never saw otherwise than in the said printed Narrative; nor did I ever hear any mention made by any person whatsoever of the Name of *Le Cheese*, or Father *Le Cheese*, before I read the said printed Narrative.

6. That I did never in all my life-time make any Entry or Entries, into any Book or Books, or take, or make, or write, or cause to be written into any Book or Books, or otherwise any Letter or Letters, or any Copy or Copies of any Letter or Letters, written by the said *Edward Coleman*, to any person or persons whatsoever.

7. That I did never in all my life-time enter or register into any Book or Books, Paper or Papers whatsoever, or take, or make, or write, or cause to be written, any Copy or Copies, of any Act or Acts, Consult or Consults, Determination or Determinations, Order or Orders, Resolve or Resolves, or other matter or thing, at any time made, determined, resolved, passed, decreed or agitated, at any Congregation or Congregations, Consult or Consults, Chapter or Chapters, Assembly or Assemblies, of the Society or Order of the *Jesuits*, or of any other Religious Order whatsoever; nor did I ever see, read, or heard read, nor did any person or persons, at any time whatsoever, ever communicate unto me, any such Act, Consult, Determination, Order, Resolve, Matter or Thing whatsoever.

8. That I did never in all my life-time, to my knowledge, belief or remembrance, see or speak with Mr. *Bedloe*, who gave Evidence against me at my Tryal, until I saw him in that Court wherein he gave Evidence against me.

9. That after the month of *November*, which was in the year of our Lord 1677. I did never see or speak with Mr. *Titus Oates* before named, until I saw him in the same Court where he gave Evidence against me at my Tryal.

10. That I did never see in all my life-time, to my knowledge, belief or remembrance, any Commission or Commissions, Patent or Patents, Grant or Grants, Order or Orders, Instrument or Instruments, Writing or Writings, or other matter or thing whatsoever, under, or pretended to be under the Hand and Seal, or the Hand or the Seal of *Johannes Paulus de Oliva*, or any other General of the *Jesuits* whatsoever, other then the Paper or Instrument produced and shewed unto me in the said Court at my Tryal, which whether it was signed or sealed by the said *de Oliva*, I do not know.

11. That I did never in all my life-time write, or cause or procure to be written, any Treasonable Letter or Letters whatsoever, or any thing which was or is Treason or Treasonable, in any Letter or Letters, Book or Books, Paper or Papers, or otherwise howsoever.

12. That

12. That I believe, that if I did know, or ſhould know of any Treaſon or Treaſonable Deſign, that was or is intended, or ſhould be intended againſt His ſaid Majeſty, or the Government of this His Majeſties Kingdom, or for the Alteration by force, advice or otherwiſe, of the ſaid Government, or of the Religion now eſtabliſhed in this Kingdom, and ſhould conceal and not diſcover the ſame unto His ſaid Majeſty, or His ſaid Majeſtie's Councel or Miniſters, or ſome of them; that ſuch concealment would be in me a ſin unto Death, and Eternal Damnation.

13. That I do believe, that it is no ways lawful for me to lye, or ſpeak any thing which I know to be untrue; or to commit any ſin, or do any Evil, that Good may come of it. And that it is not in the Power of any Prieſt, or of the Pope, or of God himſelf, to give me a Licenſe to Lye, or to ſpeak any thing which I know to be untrue, becauſe every ſuch Lye would be a ſin againſt Truth: And Almighty God, who is perfect Truth, cannot give me a Licenſe to commit a ſin againſt his own Eſſence.

And I do ſolemnly in the preſence of God, Profeſs, Teſtify and Declare, That as I hope for Salvation, and expect any benefit by the Blood and Paſſion of my deareſt Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, I do make this Declaration and Proteſtation and every part thereof in the Plain and Ordinary Senſe, wherein the ſame ſtands Written, as they are commonly underſtood by *Engliſh* Proteſtants and the Courts of Juſtice of *England* without any Evaſion, or Equivocation, or Deluſion, or Mental Reſervation whatſoever. And without any Diſpenſation or Pardon, or Abſolution already granted to me, for this or any other purpoſe by the Pope or any other Power, Authority or Perſon whatſoever; Or, without any hope, expectation or deſire of any ſuch Diſpenſation; and without thinking or believing that I am or can be acquitted before God or Man, or abſolved of this Declaration or any part thereof, although the Pope or any other Perſon or Perſons, or Power or Authority whatſoever ſhould diſpence with, Or take upon him or them to diſpence with, or Annull the ſame, Or declare that it was, or is, or ought to be Null or Void in part, or in the whole, from the beginning, or otherwiſe howſoever.

Having made this Declaration and Proteſtation in the moſt plain Terms that I can poſſibly imagine to expreſs my ſincere Loyalty and Innocency, and the clear intention of my Soul, I leave it to the Judgments of all Good and Charitable perſons whether they will belive what is here in this manner affirmed and ſworn by me in my preſent Circumſtances, or what is ſworn by my Accuſers.

I do now farther declare, That I die a Member (though an unworthy one) of that Holy Catholick and Apoſtolick Church of Chriſt, mentioned in the Three Holy and Publick Creeds, of which Church our Lord Jeſus Chriſt is the Inviſible Head of Influence, to illuminate, guide, protect and govern it by his Holy Spirit and Grace, and of which Church, the Biſhop of *Rome*, as the Succeſſor of St. *Peter*, the Prince of the Apoſtles, is the viſible Head of Government and Unity.

I take it to be clear, That my Religion is the ſole cauſe, which moved my Accuſers to charge me with the Crime, for which upon their Evidence I am adjudged to die, and that my being of that Religion, which I here profeſs, was the only ground which could give them any hope to be believed, or which could move my Jury to believe the Evidence of ſuch men.

I have had not only a Pardon, but also great Advantages, as to Preferments, and Estates offred unto me, since this Judgement was against me, in case I would have forsaken my Religion, and owned my self guilty of the Crime charged against me, and charged the same Crimes upon others: But blessed be my God, who by his Grace hath preserved me from yielding to those Temptations, and strengthened me rather to choose this death, than to stain my Soul with sin, and to charge others, against truth, with Crimes, of which I do not know that any person is guilty.

Having said what concerns me to say as to my self, I now humbly beseech God to bless the Kings Majesty with all temporal and eternal Blessings, and to preserve Him and His Government from all Treasons and Traitors whatsoever, and that His Majesty may never fall into such hands, as His Royal Father of Glorious Memory fell into.

I also humbly beseech thee (O God) to give true Repentance and Pardon to all my Enemies, and most particularly to the said Mr. *Oates* and Mr. *Bedloe*, and to all who have been any ways accessary to the taking away of my Life, and the shedding of my innocent Blood, or to the preventing the King's Mercy from being extended unto me; and likewise to all those who rejoyced at the Judgement given against me, or at the execution of the said Judgement; and to all those who are or shall be so unchristianly uncharitable, as to disbelieve, and to refuse to give credit unto my now Protestations.

And I beseech thee (O my God) to bless this whole Nation, and not to lay the guilt of my Blood unto the charge of this Nation, or of any other particular person or persons of this Nation. Unite all (O my God) unto thee and thy Church, by true Faith, Hope and Charity, for thy mercies sake.

And for all those who have shewed Charity to me, I humbly beg (O my Jesus) that thou wilt reward them with all Blessings both temporal and eternal.

13 *July*, 1679. *R. Langhorn.*

79991